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SUBJECT: LESOTHO SUPPORTS SADC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION IN
ZIMBABWE

REF: STATE 112727

¶1. Ambassador Nolan discussed reftel points with Foreign Minister Kenneth Tsekoa during a meeting on October 24 at United Nations Day. Minister Tsekoa stated that the government of Lesotho continues to strongly support the SADC's lead on the subject of Zimbabwe. He referred the Ambassador to a speech that he gave on 27 September 2008 at the UN General Assembly plenary session. In that speech, he congratulated the people of Zimbabwe and stressed the importance of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

¶2. Text of Minister Tsekoa's UNGA speech: "A few days ago, we witnessed a positive development in the Southern Africa sub-region when the leaders of the people of Zimbabwe put aside their political differences and joined hands to form a government of national unity. We congratulate the people of Zimbabwe for this historic feat. We urge the international community to support the people of Zimbabwe to rebuild the economy of their country and to determine their destiny under the atmosphere of national harmony and peace. We also urge the leadership of Zimbabwe to ensure adherence to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law as such adherence will have a catalytic effect on socio-economic development.

NOLAN